

“yellow” form is found in Ireland. In the national collection there is a single yellowish Irish specimen to which those from Mabie approximately conform. Further investigation into Dumfries populations of *H. tarsipennalis* are required to ascertain the status and distribution of this form.

Thanks are extended to D. Watterson for operating the trap at Mabie, B. Skinner for his advice and to D. Carter of the British Museum (Natural History) for allowing access to the national Lepidoptera collection.

References

- Heath, J. and Emmett, A.M. (1983). The moths and butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland, Vol. 10. Harley, Colchester.
- Skinner, B. (1984). Colour Identification guide to moths of the British Isles. Viking, Harmondsworth.
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Apion simile Kirby, W. (Col.: Apionidae) in Cumbria.

On 27th August 1989 I collected three specimens of this distinctive weevil while on a day visit to the Kingmoor Nature Reserve near Carlisle (NGR NY38.58). The beetles, two males and one female were swept from low herbage beneath some Silver Birch trees at the entrance to the reserve.

According to M.G. Morris (1990, Orthocerous Weevils, *Handbk. Ident. Br. Insects*, 5(16): 51), *A. simile* is a local weevil in Britain, but widely distributed and known from England, Wales and Scotland. This species has not been previously recorded from Cumbria, and Michael Morris (pers. comm.) informs me that this is a new county record and the first for VC70, Cumberland.

I wish to thank Dr Morris and Paul Hyman for very kindly providing me with information regarding the present distribution of *A. simile* in Britain.— R.W.J. READ, Holly Terrace, Hensingham, Whitehaven, Cumbria CA28 8RF.

Peridea anceps Goeze, the Great Prominent, f. *fusca* Cockayne (Lep.: Notodontidae) in Stirlingshire.

A single female of the melanic f. *fusca* of *P. anceps* was caught in the Rothamsted Insect Survey light trap at Rowardennan, Stirlingshire (Site No. 97, OS grid ref. NS378 958) on 25.v.1990. The specimen is entirely black, almost devoid of markings. Skinner, B. (*Colour Identification Guide to Moths of the British Isles*. Viking, Harmondsworth, 1984) states that this form occurs in the Lake District and a similar form has been reported occasionally from Surrey. The present record is particularly interesting as it appears to have come from the northernmost known locality for *P. anceps* in Britain (Heath, J. & Emmett, A.M. (1983) *Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*, 9. Harley, Colchester).